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Soviet policy believed tied to oil supply

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A recently-prepared Central Intelligence Agency report showing the Soviet Union soon may be forced to import much of its oil will mean a re-adjustment in the international scene, former CIA director George Bush said Friday.

Bush, speaking at the annual Law Day luncheon here, said the world will be forced to adapt to a new situation, depending where and how the Soviets obtain the new energy source.

The Houston Republican — who is a private citizen again after 10 years of serving in various high-level government and party posts — also was critical of President Carter's recently unveiled energy policy.

Bush said he admires Carter for "doing his best to convince the public there is an energy crises," but added that "emphasis on conservation alone is a discouraging way to attempt to solve the problem."

At the same time conservation is stressed, Bush said, emphasis also should be placed on new resources and continued improvement of production.

The CIA assessment of the world energy situation is an example of the necessary work accomplished by the intelligence community, he said.

Commenting on other areas, Bush said:

- He deplores the emphasizing of the myth of intelligence work over the reality, and the popularization of the CIA James Bond myth in books and movies.

Bush, who was called home from his post as U. S. ambassador to China to become head of the CIA during a time when the agency itself was under investigation, said a change is needed from the "tearing down" of intelligence work — "often with a malicious intent" — to a realistic understanding of what intelligence involves and why it is so vital to the country.

- A capacity to carry out covert operations is essential to the United States "in the kind of world we're living in."



GEORGE BUSH . . . speaks at Law Day observance here

As long as covert activities are supervised properly by Congress, Bush said, "there is a real need for silence . . . so the work vital to national security can go on."

- The CIA has in the past and will continue to cooperate fully with investigations by Congressional committees, including the investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

But Bush questioned whether the beleaguered House committee on assassinations can do much to lay to rest doubts about the President's death.

- He sees obstacles to the normalization of relations between the United States and China, but believes President Carter shares his desire for that historic event to occur.

A certain stability has emerged since the death of Mao, Bush said, and since the quick curbing of the "gang of four," as the dissident leaders have been nicknamed there, rumours are that China may reach out more to the rest of the world.

- The Republican party will be able to do well in the off-year congressional elections in 1978, "although the job ahead isn't easy." Bush was Republican National Committee chairman during a part of the Watergate years.

Bush said he will aid in the re-election effort of U.S. Sen. John Tower, but does not intend to seek political office himself.

- He is concerned with efforts to weaken the party system in the United States and opposes the "instant registration system" for voting nationally that Carter is considering.

"Flashing a driver's licence or an American Express card to vote" is an invitation to massive fraud and corruption, he said.

- The United Nations, to which he was a former delegate, has suffered from overblown expectations of what it realistically can be expected to do, given the political climate of the world.

The Law Day observance was sponsored by the Tarrant County Bar Association and related groups.